

**World War II Veterans; Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans and Rosie the Riveters from World War II Decorate Veterans Grand Marshals Float**

One of the more important components of the VA Veterans Day Parade, (Friday November 11 at 11 a.m.) is the honoring of the Veterans Grand Marshals who will serve as representatives of the 300,000 veterans in Maricopa County, during this dazzling patriotic event.

For the 2005 VA Veterans Day Parade the Veterans Grand Marshals will feature both veterans and women who served in factories and other war support efforts who were called “Rosie the Riveters”.

Together these two groups will help **decorate the Veterans Grand Marshal float on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 9 a.m. at the East side of VA’s Administration Building 21 at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center campus.** The CTHVAMC is located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Indian School Road and spans four city blocks from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The float decorating will take place on the NE corner of the campus across from Montecito Street.

The float decorating will consist of creating a bald eagle and commemorative square where pictures and memories from World War II veterans, Rosie the Riveters, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom can be displayed.

“Our VA Parade is one of the more significant special events we hold to help honor our veterans on their special day,” said VA Medical Center Director John Fears. “Our Parade has become one of the largest attended Veterans Day Parades in the country and through it we try to help educate the general public about our veterans and others who help to preserve our freedoms,” he added.

This year the VA Parade Committee decided to include an educational component for the Rosie the Riveter campaign that occurred during World War II. With her sleeves rolled up and her biceps flexed, Rosie the Riveter was a popular icon devised by the government to mobilize women in the World War II effort at home while men were abroad. Their campaign slogan “We Can Do It” helped energize millions of American women to replace the men in the workforce who had left to fight in battle. During the war years, Rosie stood for all the women who fought the war at home by working in factories as welders, machinists, mechanics, pipe fitters, electricians and boilermakers. Their efforts enable the United States to continue its production of war machinery and support. Many of these women are now in their 80’s and 90s.

The float decorating will consist of placing metallic sheeting on steel sculptures in order to make them come to life as an eagle and bulletin board for stories. The decorators lay out hundreds of pieces of metallic paper and staples on the sculptures in order to create the images. They also arrange letters and photos and glue them to the float depicting the

parade theme. The float will also have benches so that the Veterans Grand Marshals can ride on it parade day.

The float decorating usually lasts four hours. Interviews with Rosie the Riveters and Veterans Grand Marshals will be available at the event.